

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the Claims and Abstract by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

REMARKS

This reply is submitted pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §132 and 37 C.F.R. §1.111. The Office Action was carefully considered by the undersigned attorney and applicant. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

1. Summary of the Office Action.

Claims 1-6 were pending.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-2 and 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) over Ventura-Berti.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) over Ventura-Berti in view of Savoca

2. Discussion.

Regarding priority, applicant has amended the specification to provide a heading referencing the priority application.

Regarding the Abstract, applicant has added an Abstract incorporating the abstract submitted with the PCT International Application.

Claim 1. Independent Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph.. Applicant amended claim 1, removing the language "or the like" to particularly point out and distinctly claims the subject matter which applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1. Independent Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Ventura-Berti (USP 5339594). Applicant amended claim 1 to patentably distinguish and limit over Ventura-

Berti by defining the invention to require that the lead be conductive for conducting electrical current between electrical devices connected at the ends of the lead. Further, the amendment clarifies that the integrally formed (with the body) lead be formed with and connected to the tube. This structure and function is not shown or suggested in Ventura-Berti. In contrast, Ventura-Berti shows iron rods 7 disposed in the body of a post for strength and reinforcement purposes. Referring to column 5, lines 16-19, cables (such as electric power supply cables) are disposed in the hollow zone 10 of the post. Applicant submits that this amendment clearly indicates an interpretation of the claim which avoids the applied prior art. This structure and function is not supplied by the Savoca reference. Savoca also shows posts wherein conductive cable 32 is disposed in the hollow core of the post (See Fig. 2). In summary, amended claim 1 is believed to be patentable and withdrawal of the rejection is requested. **Claims 2 and 6** were cancelled in view of this amendment.

Claims 3, 4 and 5. These claims are all dependent upon claim 1; each such claim adds at least one further limitation and is therefore deemed to be allowable with its base claim, at least for this reason.

Claim 7. Claim 7 is new and dependent on claim 1. It has all of the limitations of claim 1, as twice amended, and further requires that the lead be a wiring harness including a plurality of conductors. The claim is believed to be patentable for there reasons in addition to the reasons advanced with respect to claim 1.

Claim 8. Claim 8 is new and dependent on claim 1. It has all of the limitations of claim 1, as twice amended, and further requires that the conductive lead be disposed within a layer. This structure is not shown in the applied prior art. The claim is believed to be patentable for there reasons in addition to the reasons advanced with respect to claim 1.

Claim 9. Independent Claim 9 is new. It has all of the limitations of claim 1, as twice amended, and further requires that one of the layers be formed of a flexible layer, that the lead have a connector at least one end, and that the lead be disposed within the tube body for a substantial portion of its length. The claim is believed to be patentable for there reasons in addition to the reasons advanced with respect to claim 1.

3. Conclusion.

The claims pending after this amendment are believed to be patentable for the reasons stated above. The amendments are believed to be supported by the specification, claims and drawings as filed. It is believed that this case is now in a condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that telephone communication would advance the prosecution of this case to finality, he is invited to call at the number below.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136(a), provided a Petition is not submitted separately.

Please charge any fee due not paid by a check provided herewith, and/or charge any underpayment in any fee, and/or credit any overpayment in fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-2381.

Any claim fee due is calculated as follows:	<u>Number</u>	<u>Fee (\$)</u>
TOTAL remaining over that previously paid for:	None	\$0
INDEPENDENT remaining over that previously paid for:	None	\$0
SUM:		\$0

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 6-22-01

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REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), Applicant(s) requests that a 6 month extension be granted in which to file the attached communication from the applicant(s).

A \$ 75 payment, for a small large entity, is enclosed authorized to be paid from Deposit Account No. 19-2381, for the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17.

Please charge any additional fee due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2381.

Respectfully submitted,



Joel D. Skinner, Jr.
Reg. No. 33,786

Date: 6-22-01

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, at the top after the Title, add the following paragraph:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a National Stage application under 35 U.S.C. 371 and claims priority of PCT Application No.: PCT/FI98/00696 filed on September 08, 1998, and Finland Application Nos.: 973627 and 974586 filed on September 08, 1997 and December 19, 1997, which are hereby incorporated by reference.--

Please add the attached Abstract at the end of the application:

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A post (1) in which there is an integral lead or wiring harness (5) for conducting current or signals.-

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Twice Amended) A post for use in leading an electrical current signal [or the like], comprising:

a hollow tube [, tube-like piece and, as an integral part, at least one lead or wiring harness or one or more feedthrough devices for a lead or wiring harness, whereby the post is] constructed of at least two layers including an inner layer and an outer layer, said layers surrounding a hollow core[], and at least one conductive lead having two ends and being adapted to be connected at said ends to electrically operated devices, said lead being integrally formed with and connected to the tube.

3. (Twice Amended) A post according to Claim 1, characterized in that [the] at least one lead [or wiring harness are] ends us connected to one or more connectors, at least in a lower section of the post.

5. (Twice Amended) A post according to Claim 1, characterized in that the lead [or wiring harness] is located in an interface between [two of the layers] the inner layer and the outer layer of the post.

7. (New) A post according to Claim 1 characterized in that the lead is a wiring harness having a plurality of conductive leads.

8. (New) A post according to Claim 1 characterized in that the lead is disposed within a layer.

9. (New) A post for use in leading an electrical current signal, comprising:

(a) a hollow tube having a predetermined length and being constructed of at least two layers including an inner layer and an outer layer, said layers surrounding a hollow core, at least one said layer being formed of a flexible material;

- (b) at least one conductive lead having two ends, said lead being integrally formed with and connected to the tube within or between said layers along a substantial portion of its length; and
- (c) a connector at said ends of said lead for connecting to electrically operated devices.